

## Message Text

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ORIGIN ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PA-04 PRS-01 USIA-15 CIAE-00 INR-10

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY MEXICO

UNCLAS STATE 239197

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PBOR, MX

SUBJECT: PRESS GUIDANCE ON ILLEGAL ALIEN PROBLEM

FOLLOWING IS PRESS GUIDANCE PREPARED FOR NOON BRIEFING  
ON AN IF ASKED BASIS ONLY. NO QUESTIONS HAVE BEEN ASKED  
AT THE NOON BRIEFINGS, BUT INDIVIDUAL REPORTERS HAVE MADE  
INQUIRIES OF DEPARTMENT OFFICIALS ON THE SUBJECT.

Q. A WIRE SERVICE REPORTS THAT FOREIGN SECRETARY RABASA  
AND SECRETARY KISSINGER ARE NEGOTIATING A NEW BRACERO  
AGREEMENT TO PERMIT 300,000 MEXICAN WORKERS TO ENTER  
THE US EACH YEAR. WHAT IS THE STATUS OF THIS  
NEGOTIATION?

SUGGESTED REPLY:

MEXICO HAS RAISED WITH US THE PROBLEM OF THE LARGE  
NUMBER OF MEXICAN WORKERS ILLEGALLY IN THE US AT VARIOUS  
LEVELS OVER THE PAST FEW YEARS. IT WAS DISCUSSED BY  
PRESIDENTS NIXON AND ECHEVERRIA AT THEIR JUNE 1972 MEETING,  
AND OUT OF THAT MEETING EACH COUNTRY ESTABLISHED A SPECIAL  
GROUP TO STUDY THE PROBLEM AND MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS TO  
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THEIR RESPECTIVE GOVERNMENTS. THESE TWO GROUPS HAVE MET

TWICE TO EXCHANGE VIEWS. SECRETARY RABASA AND SECRETARY

KISSINGER HAVE ALSO DISCUSSED THE PROBLEM IN GENERAL TERMS  
AND FURTHER DISCUSSIONS WILL UNDOUBTEDLY CONTINUE.

Q: WHAT DOES MEXICO WANT?

SUGGESTED REPLY:

MEXICO WOULD LIKE A GOVERNMENT-TO-GOVERNMENT AGREE-  
MENT TO PERMIT MEXICAN WORKERS TO ENTER THE UNITED STATES  
LEGALLY FOR TEMPORARY EMPLOYMENT, SIMILAR TO THE BRACERO  
AGREEMENT WHICH WAS IN EFFECT FROM 1951 TO 1964.

Q: WHAT IS OUR POSITION, DO WE WANT A NEW BRACERO  
AGREEMENT?

SUGGESTED REPLY:

A REASSESSMENT OF THE ENTIRE SITUATION IS CURRENTLY  
UNDER WAY. AS YOU KNOW, OUR OWN UNEMPLOYMENT LEVEL WOULD  
HAVE TO BE A MAJOR CONSIDERATION.

Q: WHAT WERE THE RECOMMENDATIONS MADE BY THE US STUDY  
GROUP?

SUGGESTED REPLY:

IT RECOMMENDED VARIOUS ADMINISTRATIVE AND LEGIS-  
LATIVE ACTIONS TO HELP ALLEVIATE THE PROBLEM. THE US  
STUDY GROUP'S REPORT TO THE PRESIDENT WAS RELEASED TO  
THE PUBLIC IN JULY, 1973, WITH THE UNDERSTANDING THAT  
THE CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS CONTAINED THEREIN  
DO NOT NECESSARILY REPRESENT THE POLICY OF THE US GOVERN-  
MENT. THE REPORT IS AVAILABLE FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF  
JUSTICE.

Q: HOW BIG IS THIS PROBLEM, HOW MANY MEXICANS COME TO  
THE US ILLEGALLY EACH YEAR?

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SUGGESTED REPLY:

WE DON'T KNOW HOW MANY COME BECAUSE NOT ALL ARE  
APPREHENDED AND EXPELLED. YOU WILL HAVE AN INDICATION  
OF THE SIZE OF THE PROBLEM FROM THE FACT THAT IN 1973  
THERE WILL BE OVER 500,000 APPREHENSIONS AND EXPULSIONS  
OF MEXICAN NATIONALS, A LARGE PART OF WHICH REPRESENTS

MEXICANS WHO ARE EXPELLED MORE THAN ONCE. KISSINGER

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